

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Hedrick. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Hedrick discloses a gaming machine provided with:

(a) A slot machine with reel and a payout device, that operates a lottery (random number generator) to select the winning combination,

(b) A secondary image device that differs from the reels (LCD Top screen),

(c) the controller operates a lottery of a winning combination according to the predetermined program; the controller controls and stops a changing display of the reel based on the winning combination obtained by the lottery; the controller allows the payout on the basis of an amount of payout set to the winning combination when a stop mode of the reel matches a symbol combination of the winning combination; and the controller allows the image display device to display the winning combination and an amount of payout while changing the amount of payout.

An object of the present invention is to provide a gaming machine capable of being adjusted to various specification changes by forming a structure in which control parameters in the gaming machine can be adjusted in response to a change in display contents. Specifically, the gaming machine according to the present invention is provided with an upper display panel situated above a reel display panel formed by an electric display device, on which a payout table is displayed. The payout table displayed thereon can be changed by a predetermined operation.

The gaming machine disclosed in Hedrick is capable of changing a payout rate including bonus contribution by selecting one of settings. However, it is not capable of changing the characteristic of the game by selecting anyone from among the plurality of kinds of payout rate setting screens like the gaming machine according to the present invention.

Furthermore, the gaming machine disclosed in Hedrick is capable of changing a payout table depending on the kind of game selected by a player and displaying thereof. However, it is not capable of changing display contents of the payout table according to changed parameters such as internal-winning probability with respect to each winning combination and super-time-generation probability like the game machine according to the present invention.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is patentable with respect to Hedrick.

Claims 2-5 and 7 depend from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claim 6 is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Hedrick in connection with Official Notice. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The gaming machine of the present invention is provided with a plurality of kinds of payout rate setting screens with respect to one kind of game so that the game is played based on one kind of payout rate setting screen selected by an operation unlike the gaming machine disclosed in Hedrick. Thus, Hedrick does not disclose the limitations recited in claim 1 from now-amended claims 6 and 7.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is non-obvious over Hedrick in connection with Official Notice.

Furthermore, claim 7 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Claim 6 is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

Furthermore, for the instance in which the Examiner took Official Notice in the Office Action, Applicant expressly does not acquiesce to the taking of Official Notice, and respectfully request that the Examiner provide an affidavit to support the Official Notice taken in the next Office Action, as required by 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2) and MPEP § 2144.03.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

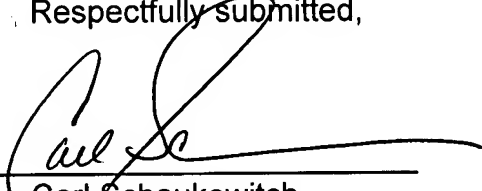
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of

the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 19, 2007

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (2 months)